



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **GANG MEMBER ARRESTED BY ICE IN BOSTON**

*Latest Arrest Under ICE's Operation Community Shield in Massachusetts*

BOSTON—An illegal alien and member of the violent “Mara Salvatrucha” (MS-13) gang was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on Wednesday and turned over to Boston Police in connection with several default warrants.

Juan Francisco Rodriguez-Ramos, a 21-year-old citizen of El Salvador, has been charged with immigration violations and will face a federal immigration judge for removal proceedings. Rodriguez-Ramos was turned over to Boston Police on default warrants issued for charges of armed robbery and assault with a dangerous weapon. ICE has issued a detainer on the case.

“Those illegal aliens seeking to threaten the safety of our communities will be sought out and deported,” said Robin M. Avers, special agent-in-charge for ICE in New England. “Together with our law enforcement partners we will continue to be relentless in our mission to disrupt and dismantle these violent gangs.”

Rodriguez-Ramos’ arrest is the latest in Massachusetts under “Operation Community Shield”, an ICE national anti-gang initiative launched in March to target members of the MS-13. To date, ICE agents, working with their federal, state and local counterparts, have arrested 191 MS-13 members nationwide.

Operation Community Shield is designed to disrupt and dismantle violent gang organizations and prosecute their members by employing the full range of authorities and investigative tools available to ICE. Under this initiative, ICE is employing its broad immigration authorities, both criminal and administrative, against gang members. At the same time, ICE uses its customs authorities to target narcotics smuggling and money laundering and to seek the forfeiture of assets.

Operation Community Shield draws on strong partnerships and cooperation with existing federal, state and local anti-gang efforts. Such partnerships are essential to the success of the initiative and to ensure officer safety during operations. Locally, ICE has partnered with the North Shore Gang

Intelligence Unit, run by the Boston Police, the Boston Police Gang Unit, the Lynn Gang Unit and the Somerville Gang Unit.

Under Operation Community Shield, ICE has also taken several new steps to help other federal, state, and local agencies identify and target gang members. ICE's Law Enforcement Support Center (LESC) in Vermont is playing a critical role in this effort. The center is running MS-13 gang member data provided by state and local law enforcement agencies through various ICE and Homeland Security databases to help these agencies identify and locate violent gang members.

The law enforcement actions to date have been conducted in coordination with law enforcement at the federal, state and local levels. ICE will also be working through its 54 Attaché offices overseas to cooperate with foreign governments that are also experiencing gang problems, particularly those in Central America.

The Boston Police Gang Unit, the FBI Gang Unit, Boston, Mass., and Everett Police assisted with Rodriguez-Ramos' arrest.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*